

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

April 13, 2011

9:35–10:30 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Jon Wilkins, Dave Strohmaier, Dick Haines, Cynthia Wolken, and Ed Childers

Members Absent: Stacy Rye Lyn Hellegaard

Others Present: Mayor Engen, Ben Schmidt, Rod Austin, Jason Wiener

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of April 6, 2011 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

V. Update from Greenhouse Gas Energy Conservation Team. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Ben Schmidt and Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 04/11/11) (**Held in Committee**)

Ben Schmidt – In the past the Greenhouse Gas Energy Conservation Team (GGECT) has worked with the City on a variety of project including recycling bins, Green minutes radio ad, and Green Power Missoula. Another role of the committee has been to serve as a sounding board for citizens or groups to propose projects for the city to pursue.

Currently the GGECT is working on several projects which include the municipal energy tracking system, grey water initiative, and installation of safe non motorized crossings at Reserve Street. With the completion of the Emissions Inventory there is an opportunity to integrate energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions into the city's decision making process. The GGECT would like direction from Council on how to integrate into other groups pursuing the same interests.

Jason W – to my knowledge when we did the upgrade for the sewer plant, which will consume large amounts of energy, there wasn't anyone focused on energy consumption by the plant. This could be a role of the GGECT to review major energy consumption projects and make recommendations to Council. They would have to review projects at design and development stage of project.

Mayor –I have established a Climate Change Advisory Group (CCAG) to understand energy use and greenhouse gas issues apart from the Council's GGECT and is a less formal, maybe more diverse group of individuals. The GGECT has provided leadership on the Green Block program which has provided energy savings measures on 350 homes, saving citizens money. In response to inventory I have asked CCAG to round up volunteers to take the next step which is a response to the inventory as well as develop an action plan. We need to formalize an energy consumption review in projects. I have extended the invitation to the GGECT to become members as well as others. The development of a climate action plan will be done by volunteers with outstanding expertise.

Jon – I would like the GGECT to focus on becoming a clearing house for grants or other energy saving measure to help Missoula citizens. I would like to see the expansion of the the green blocks program.

Pam – I think outreach to community is an important goal and we need to increase that presence. I would like to see coordination between the Mayor group and the GGECT.

Mayor – The climate action plan will address issues such as how to make energy consumption a part of the process in projects.

Bob – in July 2007, we passed a resolution to have energy consumption as part of any project. Is there some official recognition for that review? Maybe a role of the GGECT – along

with continuing the focus on educational outreach would be to assist the council with a review of projects, beyond staff review, to provide data and expertise to Council.

Dave – I agree the education component is the key to conserving energy at the local level and providing information to citizens. We rely on the GGECT expertise, and I would like the team to think about ways to move the community forward and bring forth to Council.

Mayor –the Climate Action Plan should be drafted in the next six months and will come to Council for review and approval.

Jason – I would hope that street lighting is included in action plan? I would like to hear from the GGECT on reforming the lighting systems in the City.

Mayor – I will provide you the link to the University of Montana and Helena's action plan which address street lighting. We use a lot of energy to do a lot of things, and we always try to be efficient, but we need to acknowledge that collective efforts temper pollution and use of greenhouse gases.

Dave – another project for the GGECT is to look at the whether or not the city met the goal of reducing fuel and energy use by 10% and to assess why or why not the goal was met.

Mayor – I can have Jack give an update on fuel/energy consumption.

Marilyn - to summarize the discussion, suggestions for continued work of the GGECT include: Street lighting, agency comments on projects, continue to increase outreach, web page, find out if met the 10% reduction goal. I would like to see Zeroscaping a project as well.

Ben – The GGECT has started work on the street lighting project and will coordinate with the Climate Action Plan. It will be good to have some GGECT members on the committee to develop the plan.

Held in Committee

1. Information on Trail Projects ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler) (Referred to committee: 08/23/2010)
2. Annual tree planting program update. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Renee Mitchell) (Referred to committee: 01/24/11)
3. Discuss the city's strategy to complete a boundary survey of Greenough Park. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 04/04/11)

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.